MRS. E. D. E. N. TA NOVEL SOUTHWORTH

When he came to the bedside, she

"Here, mother, is my late guardian,

"Yes; certainly. I will be very thank-

presented him to the dying woman,

Colonel Hastings, who wishes to take

ful to you, sir, if you will send for a

physician and a lawyer, and any one

else whom you may think proper to

summon, for the purpose of confirming

and insuring the validity of the state-

Colonel Hastings growled an inau-

I will not weary my readers with the

was omitted that could go to confirm

the evidence; yet, each member of the

proceedings could be taken upon it.

Immediately after the signing and wit-

this you may rest assured that, 'pos-

Author of "Self-Raised," "The Deserted Wife," "The Bride's Fate," "Retribution," "Ishmael," "The Wife's Victory," Etc., Etc. **********

frought hither. The sooner the better." our engagement, Colonel Hastings, must be annulled," said Lady Etheridge, with gentle dignity.

"Well, well. We will talk of that at sation. some future time. Meanwhile, we will direct good Mrs. Montgomery to explain to our friends that, from unforeseen circumstances, the marriage is necessarily put off, and we will go together to Mrs. Elmer's cottage, where I will cross-examine her," said the colonel, rising and touching the bell.

A footman answered the summons. "Desire Mrs. Montgomery to come hither, and then order the horses to be put to the close carriage, and ment that I wish to make," said Mrs. brought round immediately," said Col-

The man bowed and retired; and in dible reply, for he was very much pera few moments the door opened, and a tall, dignified, elderly lady, attired in a black satin dress and white lace turbring the proper parties. ban, entered the room. In half an hour he returned with

"Good-morning, Mrs. Montgomery. We have ventured to request your them. of our family is lying at the point of and that confirmed the validity of the postponement of the marriage, as Lady business was conducted in a manner Etheridge and myself must immediate at once legal and confidential. No form ly repair to the deathbed of our friend. You will, therefore, Mrs. Montgomery, be so good as to take upon yourself party stood strictly pledged to the the task of explaining to those friends others to keep the secret until proper who intend to honor our breakfast, the sad reason why our festivity is defer-

red," said Colonel Hastings. To say that Mrs. Montgomery was cottage, with the exception of Colonel thunderstruck at this announcement Hastings and Laura, who remained by away, exclaiming: would give the reader but a faint idea | the bedside of the patient, who had of its effect upon her. She was strick- sunk into a deep of utter exhaustion. en dumb for at least two minutes; but on recovering her speech, she set her this may eventually result, whoever tongue at work, "to make fast atone- may be declared the true heiress, of ment for its first delay." Colonel Hastings, however, at once cut her short session being nine points of the law, by observing that Lady Etheridge had it must, in any case, be months, if not not a moment to spare, as death was no respecter of persons, and would not wait for the mightiest on earth. And then, with the stately courtesy of the | tle." olden time, he conducted his ward to the door of her dressing-room.

And in half an hour afterward Col- world who could witness what we have onel Hastings and Lady Etheridge witnessed to-day, and not feel convincwere rolling along in the close car- ed of the truth of my mother's stateriage on their way to the house of the ment, and the rights of Rose to the The sick woman lay where Lady burne. I shall not wait to be just for laundress.

Etheridge had left her some hours be- the tardy permission of the law. I here fore. She was attended by Rose and a and now solemnly resign in favor of neighbor, who watched with her. The eyes of the visitors turned first | that I may be supposed to have to the upon Rose a glance of inquiry, to see | barony and estates of Swinburne. This whether as yet she knew or suspected

the possible great fortune in store for no longer Lady Etheridge, but, if you tace, and those tearful eyes spoke of is mine yet."

anything rather than of pleasure and unexpected triumph. Laura then advanced to greet the now in a condition to judge what you maiden, who was about to respectfully should do! You are unnerved by this your broken faith, and wear it as a

curtsey to the baroness, who imme- sudden shock. You have spent the diately presented her to Colonel Has- night in watching. You need repose tings. And it must be admitted that the and cool reflection before venturing to cunning old courtier bowed to the pos- act in this affair, Let me entreat you The neighbor arose, made her chei-

sance, and gave way to the distingu'sh- and to act."

of the bed, the sleeping woman awoke, enough, even now to know right from and seeing her, said: "Ah, you have returned, as you less to combat your resolution at pres-

Laura! take my hand, my child. For- ent, though I deem it a most injudi- paradise, left you. Well, when I reachget your past grandeur, or regard it clous one." only as a brilliant dream, and take my hand, my child. I will not ask it long. Are we alone?" "No, mother; Rose is here, and one

of your neighbors." "Send them away."

Laura arose and spoke to Rose and to the neighbor, both of whom immediately left the house. Then she returned to the bedside of the sick woman, who again eagerly clasped and held

her hand, saying: "On, Laura! Laura! do not feel coldty toward me. Let me have the comfort of my child's affection in the last fow hours of my life. Oh, Laura! Laura! all these years my heart has yearned to you with such a mighty, unquenchable thirst for your presence and your love; and when I have heard all the people praise the goodness, and wisdom, and bounty of Lady Etheridge, I have said to myself: That is my daughter. No haughty, cold-blooded and selfish Etheridge ever was good, wise or bountiful. It is because she is my daughter!' and when I have seen you passing through the village in state and grandeur, and joy, I have not dared to linger and gaze upon your form, lest I should rush out and catch you to my bosom. Do not be cold to me now; indeed, it would break my heart, and cut short even the few hours have to live. Do not shrink from me now, my only child!" pleaded the woman, in a voice of such deep sorrow that Lady Etheridge bent down and tenderly kissed her, saying:

"I do not, mother. I have come to stay with you till the last." "Oh, thank you, Laura!" cried the wretched woman, pressing her hand with spasmodic haste. "And you forgive me?"

"Poor mother! Forgiveness is a profane word to pass from child to

cannot rest without it, "Yet I

Laura." "Then take it, with all my heart. If you think that you have injured me, take my forgiveness, as freely and as perfectly as I hope for that of Heaven! And now, poor mother, a trial awaits you, which I would willingly spare you, if I could do so with justice to another. But be strong and patient; it shall be the last trial to which you shall be subjected. It will be but short, and when it is over I will remain with you as long as you live, and try to perform toward you all the duties of daughter."

"Give me the love of one, my child I need it greatly. And now what is it you would have me do, Laura?"

"The statement that you made to me last night, to be of any avail to the true heiress of Swinburne, must be put into writing, sworn to, signed, and duly witnessed in the presence of a magistrate. Also, it is needful that you submit to an examination by a physiof sound mind when you execute the proposed, in the same day, to marry a decument"

"I will do all that you wish me, Laura Let the proper person be

were about to lead to the altar, or the ill-loved cottager, whom you were alluring to destruction? Good Heaven! what blackness of wickedness! Stand out of my way, sir, and let me pass. Your presence darkens the very sunshine to me!" exclaimed the maiden, with a horror so real that it could not this?" have been concealed. "Rose! I have twice asked you what

against the unloved lady whom you

is the meaning of this attack. I have a right to an answer." "You shall have it, Mr. Hastings.

But first, perhaps, you will explain it?" to me how it is, that on this, your wedding day, and hour, you are here, questioning me, instead of being at the church with Lady Etheridge?" He saw, by her manner and her ex-

pression, that she knew too much for him to attempt to carry on the deception. He felt no other course was Laura beckoned Colonel Hastings, possible for him but to tell the truth, who had retired to the farther end of and defend his conduct as best he the room, out of hearing of this convermight. He said: "Rose, it is true that many months

before I knew you and love, partly to such.' please my father, who desired the marriage, and partly to please the lady who conferred upon me the honor of her preference, I contracted myself to Laura Etheridge, without a particle of love on my side entering into the affair. Afterward I saw you, Rose of the world, and loved you, the first and only woman I ever did love, the last and only woman I ever shall love. I could not forego the pleasure of seeking your dear presence, and beseeching your love. If I approached you under an assumed name, it was a lover's strate- ed. gem, and as such, you will forgive me. entered the carriage, and drove off to If I sought to make you mine upon un- up?" equal terms, it was a lover's extravagance, and, as such, you may pardon it. I love you, Rose, with a whole and undivided heart. In proof of which, I death. This necessitates a temporary dying woman's statement. The whole er to throw myself upon your mercy, meditated against you, to lay my heart, hand and fortune at your beloved feet, and to beg you to be my wife. Rose, I am at your feet. Will you forgive me? Will you accept my hand, and be my beloved wife?" he supplica-

> nessing of the document, all left the She snatched it from him and shrunk "You have broken with Lady Ethe-

ridge! Double traitor! false to me! False to her! Who shall trust you?" "Well, Lady Etheridge. However "Rose! Rose! I do not merit these bitter reproaches from you-not from you! To you, at least, I have been

"But false to her! false to that noble years, before you can be compelled to lady who gave you all she possessed, and, above all, her whole heart's rich lay down your title, or give up your love! Ah! do you think, sir, that I adestate, or leave your home at the casmire treachery any more, because another is to suffer by it rather than have turned traitor to Lady Etheridge, rather than to me? No! no! no! a thousand times no! I spurn the faith- asked the colonel, impatiently. less heart! Go! leave me, Mr. Has-

title and estates of Etheridge of Swinair I breathe!" "Rose! Rose! Why this fierce indignation against one who adores you? Why do you continue to strike one losing his forebearance. the new claimant all right and title who loves you too tenderly to retort? If for a time I vacillated between the but valued the Baroness Etheridge, of is my final resolve. Call me, therefore, maiden who possessed my heart; if, no longer Lady Etneridge, but, it you are kind, call me, as you did in my finally, I broke with the lady and de-But no; that drooping form, pale happy childhood, Laura, for that name cided for the maiden, was that so great Rose Elmer, the poor maiden, whom I profit by it, should not reproach me months." "But, my dear Laura, this is fanawith it," said Albert Hastings, bitterly. ticism, sheer fanaticism. You are not "I profit by your treachey! I pick up

trophy! Never! Know me better, Mr. Hastings." "Rose, you are very cruel." "Listen to me once more, and for

sible future Lady Etheridge, of Swin- to return home, retire to your chamber, the last time, and you will understand and take a few hours sleep. You will why you and I must speak no more on then be in a better condition to think earth. Yesterday afternoon you met

"I thank you, Colonel Hastings; but me, breatning vows of sincere, undi-As Laura took the place by the head my mind is clear enough and strong vided, undying love!" "Which were true, Rose! as true as "They were? Well, so I believed "Well, Laura, I perceive it is use-

them to be, and so I, hoping in a fool's fuls of the restorative. to request Lady Etheridge to come to see her. On reaching the castle I was shown to the library, where I found the and with her noble face beaming with happiness and benedictions, as though she were anticipating the arrival of some one upon whom she was about to bestow some new token of her love- talk?" some unexampled good. In a word, Mr. Hastings, this noble and generous lady was expecting her betrothed husband, upon whom she was about to bestow in Rose, though I remember that you advance her whole vast landed estate. thought me mad and raving I was not I had scarcely time to deliver my mes- delirious then, dear Rose, nor am I sage and to gain her coasent to come now, when I address you as Rosamond, to my mother, when your name was Baroness Etheridge of Swinburne, announced. The dear lady, who had said Mrs. Elmer, solemnly. name, your true name, and not the false one by which I had known you, what she is saying; her poor head is so was announced, and you entered the bad." room. I heard your voice, and recognizing it, started and turned around to assure myself that my ears had not deceived me. No: there you stood, breathing to her the same vows of sin-

ly plot her own ruin, so wrung her heart with anguish, and distracted her brain with wonder, that her whole nature seemed beaten about between madness and death, as a storm-tossed ship between wind and wave. In this mood of mind she left the cottage, and after parting with her neighbor at the door of the latter, she walkcere, undivided, undying love, that you ed listlessly down the narrow street, had just three hours before breathed intending to seek the hills. She had proto me! And there she stood, noble lady; angry with her," pleaded Rose, with seeded but a little way beyond the outwith all her loyal soul beaming from skirts of the town, and had sat down her fine face, believing your words that on the trunk of a fallen tree to rest for fell from your false tongue, just I bea while, when she heard a familiar lieved you three hours before! To her footstep approach, and, looking up, she you have been false; but to her I will saw Albert Hastings standing before be so true, that I will spurn the traitor heart you take from her to offer to me. I will always defend my sister woman, with all my might, against the world, the flesh, and the demon, if need be. So, may the Saviour of us all defend

enough, I may. I cannot yet.

faith, she wished me well."

"Will you not wish me well, then

aside, while, with the air of a young

CHAPTER VIII.

The father and son met at dinner.

Mrs. Montgomery was at the head of

princess, she passed on her way.

Hastings.

She started up with the intention of hastening away, when he caught her hand, replaced her on her seat, and smilingly said:

CHAPTER VII.

When Rose Elmer left her mother's

cottage, it must be remembered that

she had no knowledge or suspicion of

the exalted fortunes in prospect for

her. Her heart was filled with grief

and despair-grief for her supposed

mother's failing mind and body, and

despair at the discovered falsehood

and treachery of her lover. For him

whom she had known only as William

Lovel, her pure affection, honor, and

trust, had amounted to real faith and

worship. With the heathenish idolatry

of a young, warm heart, she had ador-

ed him as a god. And now to find this

idol of her adoration a traitor of the

deepest dye, who could now woo her

under false pretenses and an assumed

same, and who, even on his eve of mar-

riage with Lady Etheridge, could cool-

"What, my sweet Rose! you broke your appointment with me last evening, and now, on seeing me approach, you try to run away. How is that, sweet

"When I made that appointment yesterday morning, I thought that I was making it with my own betrothed lover, William Lovel, and not with the affianced husband of Lady Etheridge, Mr. Hastings," replied Rose, with more severity upon her young brow than any one would have supposed her capable

"Mr. Hastings! Lady Etheridge! What is it you mean, Rose? Some one has been slandering me to you." 'No, Mr. Hastings. Thank Heaven that no one on earth knows our acquaintance except your worthy friend and valet, Levere. Thank Heaven that none else in this world knows the extent of your falsehood and my folly!"

"Rose, what, in Heaven's name, is the meaning of this? It seems to me that to-day I have fallen into a train of strange adventures." "Not so strange, either, as those you had marked out for yourself when you

meditate the blackest treachery?

the table. The good lady was full of anxious inquiries as to the condition of that dying friend to whom Lady Etneridge had been so inopportunely sum-Colonel Hastings took but little nopeeress and ruin a peasant. Oh! tice of Mrs. Montgomery's remarks. against which of the two did you He was absorbed in much more

be alone with his son. As soon as the charge, from the time you were but a upon the table, she retired, leaving the months old. I had an infant girl of the gentlemen alone.

"Now, then," exclaimed Colonel Hastings, turning toward his son, "here is a dilemma. What do you think of "Nay, I should ask that question of

yourself, my dear sir. You, I understand, have been at the bedside of this ing deposition. What do you think of for this act compelled me to make this Before answering, Colonel Hastings arose and went to each door to be sure

that no one was hearing. Then he returned to his seat, stooped close to the ear of his son, and whispered: "I think that the little village maiden, Rose Elmer, is the true Baroness

Etheridge, of Swinburne. I think that the evidence leaves no doubt upon the question; and if that evidence should come before the House of Lords, she would be immediately declared as

"But that evidence shall never come before the tribunal. I was the magistrate who took that dying woman's deposition. The only other witness is in my pay, and at my mercy, and I know how to keep him subservient to one who can reward him with gold, punish him with a jail; and he will be it from my own mind." silent until I give him leave to speak. So make up your quarrel with Laura, and all evidence that might shake her in her possessions shall be suppress-

"And suppose she refuses to make it

"Then hold this evidence over her head as a rod of iron. Let her understand that, unless she consents to become your wife, you will bring forward have this day done what I should have this evidence of another's claim, and ligence that an old and intimate friend occupied the next two or three hours, done months ago. I have broken with hurl her down from her high position. Lady Etheridge, and I have come hith. Let her find that her only safety is in

pose that I, myself, decline to make up the half of all I possess."

derstand you!" hastily exclaimed the cannot be, my love. My own pride, "Well, then, I will explain. To be-

ted, sinking upon one knee, and taking gin: You never imagined that I really loved this woman?" asked Mr. Hastings, with a sneer. "Nay, excuse me! I always gave you

credit for judgment to appreciate Lady Etheridge. Whether you really loved her petition. Laura or not, I cannot tell." preciated Lady Etheridge, of Swinburne. As my father, you ordered me

to appreciate her-as a good son I obeyed you. At your command, I proposed for her hand, and was accepted. But it was only Lady Etheridge that I valued. If you suppose that I cared for Laura you are mistaken. If we had married, we should have led a terrible life. No; that there is one candid person in the myself? Shall I thank you, because you I detested Laura; but I valued the "Well: to what does all this tend?"

> "Why, to the solution of a problem tings! Your presence infects the very that has plagued my heart for the last twelve months." "In faith, I do not understand you at

all!" exclaimed the old man, almost "Then I will explain. I hated Laura,

lady who had my promise and the Swinburne. I still hate Laura, and still value the Baroness Etheridge of Swina crime? If so, you at least, Rose, who have loved for more than twelve joyment of her rights."

CHAPTER IX.

the deathbed of her new-found mother. It was a dreary vigil to the fallen peer-

At length Rose came in, bringing a basin of gruel, which she affectionately pressed upon the sick woman's ac-

"Yes, I will take it, Rose; for I need a little strength to support what is yet to come," said Mrs. Elmer, while Laura raised her up, and supported her on the bed, and Rose fed her with spoon-

When she had taken sufficient, and ed home, my mother, very unexpectedly was laid upon the bed, and when Rose ing would probably be decisive for life on my part, dispatched me to the castle had put away the basin, and resumed her seat at the bedside, Mrs. Elmer

lady sitting with documents before her, of my blood, do you remember the conversation we had yesterday afternoon before I sent you to the castle?"

"You thought that very strange "Yes, dear mother, but I ascribed it

to your illness; you were not well." "Nay, I was in my perfect senses,

nothing to conceal, did not send me "Oh, mother! mother. Pray do not from the room, but bade me retire to ramble so dreadfully," exclaimed Rose, to Swinburne castle. the bay-window seat, and amuse my- blushing scarlet; and then turning to self with some prints until she should her visitor, and saying: "I am humbled be at liberty to go with me. I obeyed to the earth, dear lady, to think that her, and in another moment, your my poor mother will ramble so wildly! Please forgive her; she does not know

> Rose," gravely replied the lady. "Oh! indeed she does not! She rambling, wandering in her mind. She never would offend your ladyship so if she were in her right mind, or knew what she is saying. Pray do not be

tears in her eyes. "I am not angry with her; nor do you understand either me or her. She knows what she says; and I know that she speaks the truth," replied Laura,

gravely. "I-I am afraid that I am very stupid: either I do not hear rightly, or I do not understand your ladyship," said

Rose, in her perplexity. "Then I will speak more plainly. When my mother, your nurse, Mrs. Elme at my greatest need. Take yourself mer, here present, treats you as Rosaout of my way, and let me pass, Mr. mond, Baroness Etheridge of Swinburne, she speaks the sober truth, for "And will you not forgive me, such you are," replied Laura, slowly, "If ever the Lord gives me grace and emphatically, fixing her eyes upon

the perplexed face of her hearer. "I wonder which of us three She with whom, for your sake I broke crazy?" said Rose. "None of us, dear Rose, though what "She is the Baroness Etheridge, of I have just divulged to you is enough Swinburne, a peeress of the realm, a to stagger your faith in our sanity. You noble lady. Yet she has a meeker heart are Baroness Etheridge, and, as such, than I, the cottage girl, possess. I can- you will, in a few weeks, be recognot so easily forgive. We waste time. nized by the whole world. Can you not

Let me pass." And Rose, putting out receive this fact?" "Lady Etheridge, if I am not quite competent to become your chaperon in her white arms, seemed to sweep him mad-if I am in my right senses-if I know my own identity-I am Rose Elmer, the child of the village laundress; and you are the last Baroness Etheridge of Swinburne," said Rose, in

> "No, Rose; I am only Laura Elmer, the daughter of Magdalene Elmer, the sadly. laundress." Rose gazed in hopeless consternation upon the speaker. At last the sick woman spoke.

"I see the crime must be confessed

weighty matters, and was anxious to the late baron, who left you in few days old, until you were six same age. While the baron was gone, the demon tempted me to change you in your cradles; and when, at the end of six months, the baron returned, I hid you, his own child, from his sight, and gave him my child, whom he brought up and educated in the belief that she was his own. Remorse for this act pursued me through life. Remorse deathbed disclosure."

While she spoke, Rose, white and ghastly as a corpse, sank half-fainting into a chair.

"Now, at last, you understand and believe, Rose?" said Laura, quietly. "Oh! Lady Etheridge," replied Rose, covering her face with her hands. "What is the matter, dear?" inquir-

ed Laura, kindly. "Oh, Lady Etheridge, what a trial for you! And it was no fault of yours! Oh, Lady Etheridge, I never, never will interfere with your title, or with your estates. You were brought up to consider them yours. You know how to wear them. You are used to rank and wealth, as I am to poverty and obscurity. I will never interfere with this arrangement! It is too late now. It would be very crue!! Forget this painful revelation, Lady Etheridge, for I shall drive "Rose, dear, you rave! It is not in

your choice to reject your good fortune, though the manner in which you receive it proves you most worthy of it, Rose. It is your duty to accept, as it is mine to resign this rank. And, in yielding it, Rose, it is a comfort to know that I yield it to one who will wear the ancient name and title both gracefully and graciously," said Laura. "Then, lady, you must share it equal-

ly with me. You must be my sister, as your are my foster sister, and share everything equally with me. And you must make the lawyers fix it so that "But now," suggested his son, "sup- no one will be able to deprive you o

"Dear and generous Rose, I thank "You? Pooh! nonsense! I don't un- you from my profound heart! But this Rose, would forbid me to become even your dependent, or receive heavy benefits from one so meek and gentle as yourself. I have lost everything else, dear Rose. Let me feel that I have yet my conscious self-control." With tears Rose repeated and urged

Rose was silent, for she felt that it "You were quite right. I always ap- Laura Elmer's position she would have done as Laura Elmer did. "And I can serve you in no way at all? It is very distressing to me."

> "We are talking too much by the sick bed I fear," said Laura, leaning over the suffering woman. "No, no," replied the latter, opening her eyes; "no; I wish that all should be settled before I go hence.

"All is settled, dear mother. I am of age, you know, and no longer in the power of Colonel Hastings, so that in this affair I can do as I like and you wish. Were I a minor, Colonel Hastings, as my guardian, might choose to contest the claim of Rose. But as I have attained my majority, I shall use my freedom to do justice. I shall myself, without waiting for the law, abdicate the estate to Rose. I shall take her to the castle, and install her there. The House of Lords, I presume, will take up the case, and confirm her in

"God bless you, Laura! You have a noble heart. When will you conduct Rose to the castle?"

"Mother, mother!" interrupted Rose Meantime Laura Elmer watched by -"let me still call you mother-I will never leave you while you live." "She is right," said Laura Elmer. "We must not leave you."

"Then, when all is over, you will do as you promise?" inquired Mrs. Elmer. "We will," replied her daughter, gravely.

The suffering woman, quieted by these assurances, dropped into a deep sleep that lasted several hours. The physician that Laura had employed to attend her mother arrived in the course of the morning, and expressed his opinion that her awaken-

And so it proved. Magdalene Elmer awoke only once again to ask forgiveness of heaven and of earth, to bless her wronged child and foster-child, and then she sank into her last sleep of

death. Laura mourned for the parent found only to be lost, and Rose wept bitterly for one who had always seemed a most

tender mother to her. Of Magdalene Elmer it might said, her sins were buried with herher repentance and her affection sur-

vived her in the memories of Rose and Laura retained her self-command and assumed the direction of affairs. After the funeral, Laura placed Rose in a close carriage and conducted her

CHAPTER X.

Rumors of the change of ownership had reached the castle. And as the carriage drew up before the central hall door, the head servants arrayed themselves in the hall to welcome back their beloved lady. First, on the right and left, stood the steward and the housekeeper. They bowed and curtaied low as Laura led Rose through hall and up the broad statrcase to a pleasant apartment that had been the late Lady Etheridge's morning room. "Take off your bonnet and mantie here, dear Rose; we will have some luncheon and then rest. To-morrow

you must be presented to the household as the baroness." "Oh, no; dear lady, no! Not yet. am frightened at this great place, and all those military-looking attendants. Do not tell them yet, and do not ever leave me!" exclaimed the terrified

maiden. She was far from rejoicing at her good fortune. The death of her fostermother, the treachery of her trusted lover had nearly broken her heart, and now this vast wealth suddenly fallen upon her had crushed her spirit like a great calamity.

"Do not leave me, Lady Etheridge! Oh, never leave me in this vast wilderness of splendor alone. I shall go mad!" she wildly exclaimed. "Sweet Rose, you will not be alone.

Mrs. Montgomery is a good woman; she is your near relative as she has always been supposed to be mine; and you will find her very kind and very that society which will quickly gather around you after your position has been confirmed by the house of peers, as it must be in a few months," said Laura, with her usual calm, sweet seriousness. "Oh, Lady Etheridge! I care nothing for all these things!" said Rose, very

"Do not call me by a title to which I have no right, my dear; call me Laura or Miss Elmer, which you please. And now let me tell you that you should care for these things, Rose! You should value the gifts of Providence. anew. Rose, you were the only child of



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in gratitude to the civer, and you should consider how much good you may do with this power." "Ah! but if you knew-if you knew-

how much I have suffered!" "I do know, dear Rose. I know that you have suffered; but I am ignorant of the nature of your sufferings. It is something besides the loss of her whom you loved as your mother; that, indeed, would cause you deep grief, but not a bitter, misanthropical, hopeless case like this. Come, you must unbosom yourself to me, it will relieve

"Oh, no! no, lady! to you least of all others ought I to speak of my "Nay: to me of all others you should talk of them. For, Rose, I have been wounded in the very depth of my

"You, lady! Oh, yes, I know. It is a great reverse: I wish it had not happened." said Rose, thinking that Laura Elmer alluded to her sudden vicissitude of fortune.

"It is not that; that could not have touched my heart, still less pierced it as this other blow has. No, Rose, it is is this-my marriage is broken off." "Your marriage broken off! Oh, lady, how was that?" said Rose, remembering that she had heard the same fact from Albert Hastings-yet wishing to

"It was in consequence of my change "Oh! the traitor! Oh! the base traior!" exclaimed Rose.

"Hush, my dear. I cannot hear the man whom I once loved spoken of in this manner," said Laura, with gentle "Ah! but, then, you do not know al.

his treachery yet, or how much right I have to call him a traitor! And now, since I hear from your own lips that the marriage is broken off, and the reason for it, I will tell you something which you ought to hear, that you may

(Continued on Page Three)

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